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INFORMATION REPORT

50X1-HUM

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Baltic MD)

DATE DISTR. 29 September 1949

SUBJECT Airfield and Seaplane Base of Klaipeda (Memel)

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. An airfield was located on a railroad curve at the southern border of the town of KLAIPEDA (21°7'E/55°43'N). A workers' settlement was at the western border of the field. Only destroyed buildings and a pole with windcone could be seen from a distance. The field was permanently occupied by at least nine and occasionally twelve to fourteen single-engine fighters (radial engine, short, thick fuselage, oval-shaped wings); these were parked in open revetments. Only take-off and landing practice was observed.

2. A seaplane base, marked off by buoys, was located at the port of KLAIPEDA, on the same level with the sawmill area. Three to four "Heinkel" seaplanes (single-engine biplanes painted dark grey) were usually stationed there. These planes usually flew as target planes, towing sleeve targets, north of the Nehrung (long narrow tongue of land).

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Comment:

3. This is the first information on the KLAIPEDA airfield, which apparently is not to be improved because of its unfavorable location (no possibility for expansion, obstacles). It is assumed from the number of aircraft reported that a fighter squadron is stationed there, although only take-offs and landings were observed. The storage of aircraft in revetments favors the assumption that an air unit is located there, and not a school. The observed aircraft are assumed to be LAs, possibly LA-9s or LA-11s.

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b. To designate the observed sub-biplane as "Heinkel type" is considered risky, as the only existing type of that make, the He-60 equipped with BMW-VI engine, was withdrawn from the front in 1941. It is doubtful if the Soviets captured parts of this type. Possibly an obsolescent Soviet type such as a Kor-1, which may still be used for practice target, is concerned.

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